

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph bridging pages 3 and 4 with the following clearly printed paragraph (no changes are made from the originally filed paragraph):

The invention further provides a method of producing an abrasive flap disc of the type described above, comprising the steps of providing a backing plate; providing an adhesive on an upper surface of the backing plate; rotating the backing plate incrementally; at each incremental step, feeding the end of a strip of abrasive material on to the adhesive on the backing plate; severing the end of the strip to form a flap repeating the process until an annular array of flaps is formed on the backing plate with each flap, at least in a radially outer region, being spaced from each adjacent flap; maintaining the flaps in the spaced position; and curing the adhesive to secure the flaps to the backing plate.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 15-35 with the following amended paragraph:

During manufacture, the projection 40 of the backing plate 11 can be placed in the centre hole 33 of the former and thus locates the semi-manufactured flap disc 20 within the former 30. In such a position, contact between the former side wall 31 and the outer edges 17 of the laps 12 provides support for flaps 12. In addition, the height of the side wall 31 is greater than the height of the flap disc 20 and is therefore sufficient to allow stacking of a number of semi-manufactured flap discs 20 contained within their respective formers 30. It is important that pressure must not be applied to the top edge 18 of the flaps 12 such that they become flattened. For additional support, a substantially spoke-shaped frame (~~not shown~~) 50 could be appropriately positioned in the former 20, with spokes protruding into the gaps 15, between adjacent flaps 12, so as to support the flaps 12 during curing and prevent them falling back into contact with adjacent flaps. Formers with different configurations can be used so long as they perform the above mentioned functions.